

Interviewer: So he was put in jail in Logan?

Interviewee 1: Yeah. They came and got him and took him to Logan.

Interviewer: I see. Do you know what he was tried for? Was it treason?

Interviewee 1: Well, I don't know what they tried him for, but my brother-in-law, that's what they wanted him for, was treason. And I – and I'll tell you someone else might know something, too, is Bill _____ Blizzard's son in Charleston.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm. I've heard about him.

Interviewee 1: Bill Blizzard's son. Now my husband, I think that Bill – helped Bill Payne to get away, you know, so he could get out of the state. This boy's father.

Interviewer: Now do you remember, or did your husband ever tell you about how they organized the miners to go – to march down there?

Interviewee 1: No. Hmm-mm. I don't know anything about that. Hmm-mm. I don't know how they did that. I know they – I've heard them say that they went on boxcars. There was boxcars of them, and they was riding on top of boxcars, and everything. And it was all over some of them being shot, wasn't it? I think that's what it was over. Someone being killed.

Interviewer: Well, I think part of it was that they wanted to organize a union in Logan County.

Interviewee 1: Mm-hmm. Yeah. Yeah, that's what it was. That was _____ and they wouldn't – you know, they couldn't get a union in there.

Interviewer: What's what I understand.

Interviewee 1: Mm-hmm. That's what it was.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm. And do you know if they – if they tried many of the men from this community on treason and other kinds of charges, and put them in jail?

Interviewee 1: Well, Frank Keeney was tried. He was tried. But I don't know. Frank Keeney's dead now.

Interviewer: I know.

Interviewee 1: Frank Keeny, he was tried.

Interviewer: And he was president of the district?

Interviewee 1: Yeah. Mm-hmm.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm.

Interviewee 1: Yeah, Frank Keeny, he was tried.

Interviewer: Do you remember any of the stories they told you when they got back about what happened down there, and –

Interviewee 1: No, I don't think –

Interviewer: – anything like that?

Interviewee 1: – I wasn't – huh-uh, I didn't know about them. Just my-hu- my husband. I'd hear him talking about how they mistreated them there. They'd come in, send guards in there, and talk to them, threaten them, hitting them, and everything else.

Interviewer: This is in the jailhouse?

Interviewee 1: This was in the jailhouse. Uh-huh. I guess they was badly mistreated.

Interviewer: It sounds just awful what they –

Interviewee 1: Mm-hmm.

Interviewer: – They were feeding him beans in glass...

Interviewee 1: When I heard him say that, and he was so hungry, he would pick the beans out and, you know, away from the glass, so they wouldn't get no glass. And I know he didn't lie about it, because he wasn't no liar.

Interviewer: I'm sure that's true.

Interviewee 1: But my brother-in-law, but he pulled a slick one on him. They thought he was in there shaving, and _____ I don't think _____ one of them was doing all this talking, and all that time, he was getting ready to get out, and he went out the back window, took off up in the mountains, and went right on over into White Oak, stayed all

night, and then I think he and Bill Blizzard sent a car or something, and took him, and he got out of the state, went to _____ he stayed out there about 15 or 20 years.

Interviewer: And then he did come back?

Interviewee 1: He come back. He died back here. He come back here in –

Interviewer: Did the law ever get after him when he came back?

Interviewee 1: No. They dropped him. It all was dropped.

Interviewer: You know, I think that was true of a lot of people. I think a lot of people left the state after that happened.

Interviewee 1: Yeah, they did. Uh-huh.

Interviewer: Lots of time they didn't have any evidence against them at all.

Interviewee 1: Well, I don't know what they tried – what they – I think – I forget just how long my husband stayed in there, but they didn't put him back in jail no more, they dropped the charges, because they didn't get no evidence, you know, _____.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm.

Interviewee 1: No, I don't know how he – who organized that. Now Dimple might tell you something.

Interviewer: You never heard of Mother Jones?

Interviewee 1: Oh, yeah. I've seen Mother Jones.

Interviewer: Oh, you did?

Interviewee 1: Yeah, I seen –

Interviewer: Yeah, can you tell me about her? I would love to hear –

Interviewee 1: Honey, I wouldn't know anything. I just – she used to go over there – she used to go to their meetings and all. I can remember, I was real small.

Interviewer: Do you remember her speaking?

Interviewee 1: I don't remember that, but I remember seeing her, you know, going in cars, going with them. But now I don't know, Dimple might know something like that. You look her up and tell her I sent you ____.

Interviewer: Okay. Okay.

Interviewee 1: But I – see, I don't ____ she was ____ 10 or 12 years over at the mines, and she probably knows, maybe would know more.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm. Does she still remember?

Interviewee 1: Oh, yeah. Yeah. Dimple, yeah, she still remembers, yeah.

Interviewer: That's good.

Interviewee 1: ____.

Interviewer: Well, I just – you know, I'm very interested in all this stuff.

Interviewee 1: Mm-hmm. Yeah.

Interviewer: It's really fascinating. Well, you don't know any men around who actually marched?

Interviewee 1: No.

Interviewer: Now someone told me I should go talk to Tom Haywood. Do you know Tom?

Interviewee 1: Well, Tom, yeah, but he's working today. You don't see him here at this time Tom might know something. Tom's still older than I am. He's three or four years older than I am. He might know something. But he would be working now.

Interviewer: Do you know when I should go?

Interviewee 1: You'd have to go this evening, after – about 4:00, because I think he comes in around 3:30.

Interviewer: Okay. And where does he work?

Interviewee 1: He works over here at – around there at that next to that temple. You go up this hollow and around that temple.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm. Well, I'd better wait till he comes home from work.

Interviewee 1: Yeah, he lives right up upon that hill right behind the school right up here.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm. Could I just walk up there from here?

Interviewee 1: Yes. Yeah. Mm-hmm. You see all the white houses over yonder?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Interviewee 1: He lives on the next – on this side.

Interviewer: Okay. Well, I'll definitely (6:00) – I'll go see him, then. There's no one who was in there in the recreation room with you _____

Interviewee 1: No. _____. Huh-uh.

Interviewer: That would remember?

Interviewee 1: _____.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Interviewee 1: _____ anything.

Interviewer: Well, we're on the kids' playground here.

Interviewee 1: We had a coal strike. And there was some people come up to our house one night, and we didn't even know that they was _____. And they *[inaudible]* get your guns.

Interviewer: Oh, they did?

Interviewee 1: Yeah. We didn't know the guns were even up there. *[Inaudible]*.

Interviewer: Did they do that to everyone? Did they confiscate the guns?

Interviewee 1: Well, they had these – they must have – all of the miners must have had them and had them hid up there. *[Inaudible]* because it was the miners' guns that they came and got. *[Inaudible]* That was in 1913 I remember that well. I was just a little old pop.

Interviewer: Do you remember the strike, then?

Interviewee 1: Yeah.

Interviewer: Did you have to – were you thrown out of your houses?

Interviewee 1: No. I think some somebody- Now Dimple was.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Interviewee 1: Dimple was thrown out. Mm-hmm. Yeah, my husband's mother and them they was all throwed out my husband was throwed out. They was throwed out. But I wasn't married to him. We didn't get married until 26. But they lived over here, it was right across the creek down there. That's what we call Sandy Bottom. Now there was a tent colony there. And there was a tent colony [inaudible]. Now Dimple probably she can tell you _____ whole lot. But she'll know. But she was – she was _____.

[Background voices]

Interviewer: _____.

Interviewee 1: Yeah, _____.

[Background voices]

Interviewer: (8:00) That's Billy Blizzard? Yeah.

Interviewee 2: [Inaudible].

Interviewer: That's what?

Interviewee 2: [Inaudible]. _____ the operators in the mine and they had [inaudible].

Interviewer: Because I understood –

Interviewee 2: There was so many people [inaudible] I didn't really know what year it was now, you may know that.

Interviewer: It was 1921.

Interviewee 2: Twenty-one?

Interviewer: Yeah. I mean, what I heard – what I understood was that your brother was involved in that.

Interviewee 2: Yes, my brother was involved in that _____ but he was _____ went together to got the men together to _____ the march and to

_____ organize Logan County, and _____ could have never got there, and [inaudible] called out the military and the government and the federal government [inaudible] when he was in Logan County alright but they didn't get through.

Interviewer: They just almost got there. Isn't that right?

Interviewee 2: They did get there.

Interviewer: They did get there?

Interviewee 2: They got there. They had a _____, they had an armed battle, and then they _____ and they was fighting _____, both sides was fighting.

Interviewer: That's what I understand.

Interviewee 2: They killed on both sides. That's what it seems there was more on the other side the side that was fighting to get in there than the side that was fighting the union [inaudible].

Interviewer: Off what?

Interviewee 2: [Inaudible].

Interviewer: Oh, what was that? I didn't hear about that. This was a miner who was murdered?

Interviewee 2: No, it was a mine guard. Some of the – I don't know whether he was a guard or a deputy sheriff or what he was, but he was fighting for the company. I really – I mean –

[Background noise]

Interviewee 2: [Inaudible] my pants, but I _____ my house [inaudible].

Interviewer: Oh, really?

Interviewee 2: [Inaudible].

Interviewer: You told me that there was this fellow named Gore who was a mine guard who was shot?

Interviewee 2: I think that was his first name. I think George _____ I believe was his first name, but I'm not sure _____ that was his first name now I hadn't thought about that for so long.

Interviewer: And is that how – that was their excuse to recruit guys to fight the miners who were marching down to Logan? Is that –

Interviewee 2: They were trying to march in there to organize, and _____, but Logan County was – there was no union ever allowed in there. They had guards. They had the – the company paid the Army to keep people out. And they killed – they shot _____ anybody who attempted to go in there, and they killed him this time. I don't know how many times [inaudible] organized a march, to march into Logan County, to try to organize the mines and the union mine, you know. But they didn't – they got to Blair in Logan County. That's where the bloody battle was fought on Blair Mountain in Logan County. [Inaudible].

Interviewer: Isn't that – did you go on the march?

Interviewee 2: No, I didn't. I didn't march. No, I didn't go see them. [Inaudible] organizing the union people. _____ Mother Jones _____ organized labor _____ and still _____ my father, he didn't go, and _____ who [inaudible] get a job, and then he [inaudible] he was _____ organizing men. _____ he had [inaudible] send someone in who probably isn't going to work long [inaudible] organized [inaudible]. [Inaudible].

Interviewer: Yeah. You know, one thing that I'm interested in is how they organized the men to march down to Logan. Do you know how it was that they got them together?

Interviewee 2: Well, it was like [inaudible] violate their union contract (14:00), so the men can't – they don't pay 'em what they promised to or they don't have to do anything. And _____ themselves _____ and that they – you know, they _____ all of _____ the mine workers in the state had organized _____ _____. They sent the union in there and everything but most of the time they got killed. And they [inaudible] the mines [inaudible]. They never did get Logan County organized till after President Roosevelt was in there, and he give the men the privilege to organize.

And in any labor movement, any _____, people had the right to organize.

Interviewer: You know, it's –

Interviewee 2: _____ a union.

- Interviewer:* It's real interesting. I went down to Logan to talk to some people.
- Interviewee 2:* You didn't find out nothing there, did you?
- Interviewer:* I didn't find out very much. No. But they did tell me that they weren't able to organize until 1933.
- Interviewee 2:* That was _____, you see, they had _____ you take coal operators, they just had _____ armies. They _____ they got low wages. [Inaudible] arm the guards to keep the people out, but they couldn't pay their people _____. And they couldn't – they couldn't leave, they couldn't move away from there, [inaudible] outside store company that owned the stores, owned everything, and every bit of the money they made went right back to the company _____ they couldn't buy- the people are _____ could have been away from there far enough to _____. [Inaudible] down there. I think [inaudible], and the ones that _____ that did come out, they _____ the mine owner [inaudible]. They never [inaudible], and _____ they did keep it all [inaudible]. And they took [inaudible]. No communication in and no communication out.
- And _____ run through the mountains _____ tents [inaudible] train [inaudible] inside of them [inaudible].
- Interviewer:* Gee. Is that true?
- Interviewee 2:* That's true. And they – and they [inaudible] he was from a wealthy family over in or New York or somewhere or other, but he got [inaudible]. He come _____ through the mountains [inaudible]. Well, that's [inaudible].
- Interviewer:* When was that?
- Interviewee 2:* Well, I was [inaudible] I don't know exactly _____. I can't _____.
- Interviewer:* I think that's right.
- Interviewee 2:* Yeah. That sounds right. Because that's when _____.
- Interviewer:* That's right. Uh-huh. You are describing this town to me, and where was that? I didn't hear where it was.
- Interviewee 2:* What do you mean this town? Where these tents was?
- Interviewer:* Yeah.

Interviewee 2: Oh, [inaudible] set the tents [inaudible] tents on that property [inaudible]. _____ same way [inaudible] tents on _____ 18 months [inaudible] and all the other states [inaudible] sign _____ contract _____ United States _____. [Inaudible] President Roosevelt, you know, [inaudible].

Interviewer: Now I _____ –

Interviewee 2: [Inaudible] the Mineworkers [inaudible].

Interviewer: Sure. Have you been following this election? No?

Interviewee 2: No. [Inaudible] everybody. [Inaudible].

Interviewer: Do you know Arnold Miller? I know he's from –

Interviewee 2: _____.

Interviewer: Yeah? Well, you know –

Interviewee 2: I know his mother, his father, his family _____ they have five little girls.

Interviewer: Do you?

Interviewee 2: [Inaudible].

Interviewer: Well, you know, the newspaper that I work for is *The Miners' Voice*.

Interviewee 2: It's what?

Interviewer: *The Miners' Voice*.

Interviewee 2: What is that? The name is what of the paper?

Interviewer: *The Miners' Voice*.

Interviewee 2: I've never seen it.

Interviewer: It's The Miners for Democracy.

Interviewee 2: I said, I've never seen it.

Interviewer: You've never seen it?

Interviewee 2: No, I haven't.

Interviewer: I'll have to bring you a copy of it. It's a newspaper of the Reform Crew.

Interviewee 2: *[Inaudible]* I guess everybody knows the same thing I know, but *[inaudible]* not too many people in here that's as old as I am. *[Inaudible]*.

Interviewer: So that's just the thing, you know. That's why it's so nice to have a chance to talk to you.

Interviewee 2: _____ just any question you want to ask me, well, ask me. Just *[inaudible]* television company.

Interviewer: Oh, they did?

Interviewee 2: They come here, and they – and they made – they took pictures _____ sound and pictures at the same time and took them back to England .

Interviewer: Did they ever show you?

Interviewee 2: No, they didn't show the pictures.

Interviewer: Well, I will send –

Interviewee 2: *[Inaudible]* and that they _____ of me. I never – and *[inaudible]* right before that bridge goes across *[inaudible]* Loghouse. *[Inaudible]*.

Interviewer: Yeah. Yeah. You know, one –

Interviewee 2: And he lived there when I was one year old. We went to Camden and stayed there until _____ and then _____. And we went to _____ and stayed there from *[inaudible]*.

Interviewer: Hard to imagine now.

Interviewee 2: Really. And they organized *[inaudible]* organized _____ the United Mineworkers *[inaudible]* having to run away from _____.

Interviewer: Now I want to make sure I have my history straight. I take it that in 1912, there was a big strike here, and that you won recognition of the union.

Interviewee 2: Yeah. But we didn't –

Interviewer: But then it got broke –

Interviewee 2: – before, we had the union, too, and then and then in 1922 we had the union too and then we walked –

Interviewer: Oh, I see. And you had to strike again to get it back. Did you have the union here after 1912 all the way through?

Interviewee 2: _____ the union _____ 1912 _____ '22. Just like I told you about, it was a nationwide strike and then we lost it in 1922.

Interviewer: Oh, and you lost it again in '22 because of this –

Interviewee 2: _____ in '22, we didn't get it back until [inaudible].

Interviewer: I see. That's really interesting. I hadn't gotten my dates straight there. You know, one thing I'm really interested in hearing about is how – I know they got together a big group of men to march down to Logan to try to force them to go union. Now do you know how they went about organizing the men?

Interviewee 2: Well, they need to be here in the – oh, yeah, this was force, this was force everything _____ things that they did over there _____ the miners _____ the union out there _____ shooting _____. They wasn't going to _____ burned down everything [inaudible].

Interviewer: Do you know, did Mother Jones come in here to help organize?

Interviewee 2: Mother Jones organized way back yonder, in 1902, when was at the – the 1902 _____, that's where I first knew Mother Jones. I was just a little girl. And then she was with us _____ and they would strike. She come down and organized. I can remember seeing her _____.

Interviewer: And she helped when you organized when you went down to Logan?

Interviewee 2: No, she didn't.

Interviewer: She didn't?

Interviewee 2: No, the men all marched on Logan and she didn't know anything about the march. And _____ Frank Keeney in fact [inaudible] and my brother was a field worker.

Interviewer: Yeah. Yeah.

Interviewee 2: And they – so they – she – they – after they declared _____ declared the – and brought – and sent the troops in, calling out the troops [inaudible]. And Mother Jones, she knew that [inaudible]. And she [inaudible]. They listened to her, because she was a – she was a organizer. So she organized [inaudible] County [inaudible] back in there and _____.

Interviewer: What did your brother think at that point about going on or staying?

Interviewee 2: He went on and _____ he found out they was all going to be killed [inaudible] they was supposed to be the leaders of it. [Inaudible] my brother was trying to [inaudible] and they tried to [inaudible].

Interviewer: But when Mother Jones pleaded with the men to go back, your brother agreed with her and wanted to go back, too?

Interviewee 2: He agreed with her because he knows she was right _____.

Interviewer: Well, I guess the question I have, then, is how – they ended up having a big battle, then?

Interviewee 2: They had the battle before she come in there, before all this broke loose and nobody knew nothing about it.

Interviewer: I see.

Interviewee 2: Only miners. And they got in there, that's the reason they killed so many of the guards _____ they _____ there before they _____. And that's a _____ march, and they _____ anybody come along the road, they'd just pick them up and take them _____. And they kept my brother and Frank Keeney and Greg Moony and _____ because most of them was _____. Now I can't recall any [inaudible] in jail. One guard, he got so poor that he could get through the jail bars _____. And [inaudible] an old horse's head [inaudible] horse's head [inaudible] try to make them tell who organized them _____ nobody ever told that it was _____ and he kept them in there for 42 days. [Inaudible] because he's the one organized [inaudible].

Interviewer: You know, I talked to one woman this morning who told me that they fed them beans with glass in it.

Interviewee 2: [Inaudible] put their food on the old rotten horse's head
[inaudible] that's – you know, that's barbarian. [Inaudible].

Interviewer: Yeah.

Interviewee 2: It don't seem possible in a civilized country like this _____ that
was _____. That wasn't the law. The law didn't have nothing to do
with that. That was _____. They didn't have _____ they was the
law. _____ private _____ guards themselves. [Inaudible] still have
that around the plant, they have private guards around these plants,
and _____ that's why _____ down there –

[End of Audio]